

Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. Luke 10:31–32 (ESV)

But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Luke 10:33–35 (ESV)

The sixth commandment is about more than not taking life. It is about giving life. Obeying it means meeting the need of our enemy, like we would meet the need of a friend.

#### Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. Under what circumstances, if any, would you be capable of killing someone (war, threat to family, self-defense, etc.)?
2. What are the biblical reasons why murder is wrong?
3. How can we break the sixth commandment in ways we didn't expect?
4. How have you broken the sixth commandment by carelessness or recklessness in the way you live? How is God convicting you to change your life-style?
5. **Read Luke 10:29-37.** How does violence in the media affect our attitude toward death? What current movies, TV shows, and video games do you think take the breaking of the sixth commandment too lightly?
6. **Read Proverbs 10:11, 12:18.** Our words can either take life or give life. What does it mean to give life and healing through your words? Give an example of how you were blessed by someones words.
7. Is there someone in your life that is hard to love? How can you obey the inward demands of this command to not develop hatred and verbal abuse toward them, but go out of your way to give them life and treat them as a friend?



## Command 6 – Do Not Murder

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*"You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13 (ESV)*

### 1. What does this command mean?

*Thou shalt not kill. Exodus 20:13 (KJV 1900)*

- Kill is a bad translation.
- Murder is better, but it does not capture the full meaning
- Ratzach = Any unlawful killing. It ranges from cold-blooded murder to death by negligence.

### 2. Why did God give this command?

#### 1. Man is created in God's image.

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (ESV)*

#### 2. There is a vast chasm between plants and animals compared to human life.

*Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. Genesis 9:3 (ESV)*

*And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image." Genesis 9:5–6 (ESV)*

### 3. When are we allowed to take life?

#### 1. Life can be taken in times of just war.

Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." Luke 3:14 (ESV)

## 2. Life can be taken in capital punishment.

...for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:4 (ESV)

## 3. Life can be taken in self defense.

If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him... Exodus 22:2–3 (ESV)

## 4. When is it wrong to take life?

### 1. It is wrong to take life in murder.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Romans 12:19 (ESV)

### 2. It is wrong to take life in abortion.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:15–16 (ESV)

- In the Bible, there is no word for fetus.

"When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, Exodus 21:22–23 (ESV)

### 3. It is wrong to take life in euthanasia.

### 4. It is wrong to take life in suicide.

### 5. It is wrong to take life through carelessness.

"When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall from it. Deuteronomy 22:8 (ESV)

"When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death. Exodus 21:28–29 (ESV)

### 6. It is wrong to take my life or the life of others through recklessness.

### 7. It is wrong to take life through hatred and verbal abuse.

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV)

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15 (ESV)

## 5. Jesus wants us to give life.

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Luke 10:30 (ESV)